



Alberta
Cattle
Commission

**Producer
Profile:
Guy Fontaine**



Guy Fontaine splits his time between managing a haying and rotational grazing operation at Bonnyville and his Edmonton law practice. Guy represents producers from Northeast Alberta on the ACC board of directors and was recently elected chairman of the Alberta Farm Animal Care Association - a cross commodity producer organization focused on animal welfare issues.

**Cattle Market
Information
Slaughter Line
(403) 274-4340
Feeder Line
(403) 274-4345**

visit our
Web Site
www.cattle.ca/acc

GRASS routes

The Alberta Cattle Producer Monthly Update

May 2001

Call us at (403) 275-4400

Foot and Mouth Update - Canadian Response

The spread of Foot-and-Mouth disease (FMD) in Europe, South America and Asia and the devastating impact it would have on the Canadian cattle industry were it to occur here has lead to a great deal of concern among producers.

A domestic outbreak of FMD would close all export markets for meat, live cattle, genetics and by-products and potentially restrict inter-provincial trade as well. Cattle prices could drop by up to 50 per cent and losses would be in the billions of dollars.

The Canadian Cattlemen's Association (CCA) and the Alberta Cattle Commission (ACC) have worked closely with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) to help prevent this possibility.

Prevention Strategy

A number of precautions have been taken to prevent FMD from reaching Canada. Imports of susceptible products from FMD infected countries have been suspended including live animals, embryos, semen, animal products and farm vehicles and equipment.

Travellers from FMD affected countries are required to follow simple but effective disinfectant procedures at Canadian

international airports. The CFIA and the Canada Customs and Revenue Agency have increased surveillance of passengers and baggage arriving on international flights.

The Department of National Defence and the CFIA have developed biosecurity measures for incoming military personnel and equipment including a 28-day quarantine for those from affected areas.

The CFIA is placing ads in major newspapers, magazines and agricultural publications about prevention. As well, there are new in-flight airline presentations and travel information cards being distributed to passengers.

The ACC and CCA have conducted numerous media interviews to emphasize the significance of the bio-security advisories and the potential impact if safeguards are not maintained.

As well, the ACC and CCA have assisted special events administrators such as the Calgary Stampede to raise general awareness and advise on precautions.

Plan of Action

Canada is ready to control and eradicate FMD should a domestic outbreak occur. The CFIA has developed a very detailed animal health emergency

response plan which is designed to act swiftly in case of an outbreak.

To test these abilities, Canada, the United States and Mexico took part in a North American simulated FMD outbreak to practise their respective and collective animal disease emergency response plans. The ACC and CCA sent observers to the exercise to provide industry feedback.

The Canadian Cattle Identification Agency traceback system would be a key component to help manage an outbreak.

School Tours

The ACC is aware of numerous schools who have cancelled or postponed trips to Europe due to FMD. We thank these groups for their consideration of the well-being of their communities and of the Canadian cattle industry.

What You Can Do

While the federal government has taken steps to limit the chance of FMD entering Canada, producers are also encouraged to do their part. Information on preventative measures can be found at the CFIA website at www.cfia-acia.agr.ca. An FMD factsheet is also available on the ACC website at www.cattle.ca/acc.

